(c) the steps being taken to avoid such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) As far as continuous deployment of soldiers is concerned, rotation of personnel deployed in sensitive/stressful situations is ensured. No sharp increase in diseases like hypertension, heart disease and psychiatric illness, amongst Armed Forces personnel has been noticed in the recent past. Further, such diseases are not solely attributable to their deployment.

However, the Government has been continuously taking measures for reducing stress among the Armed Forces personnel. Some of the steps taken are:-

(i) Counselling on stress management by trained and qualified Psychiatrists and Psychiatric Nursing Assistants.

(ii) State Governments have been requested to make the civil administration more responsive to the problems of serving soldiers and their families.

(iii) Stress related issues are addressed by the Commanders through Group discussions/ workshops/ counselling session/ stress management courses.

(iv) Utilization of religious teachers to counsel troops.

(v) Leave policy has been liberalized.

(vi) All personnel returning to unit after leave are interviewed and medically examined by the Regimental Medical Officer. Any stress marker is looked for and motivational talk is rendered.

(vii) The training capsules on relaxation techniques including Yoga and Pranayam have been introduced.

Arms acquisition proposals cleared by DAC

621. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) of Ministry of Defence met in August to have discussion on several acquisitions for armed forces such as proposed acquisition of six more submarines for Indian Navy as well as air defence missiles and guns for Army;

(b) if so, following this civil aviation and Indian Air Force authorities had earlier formed a joint strategy to ensure comprehensive air defence security besides to have beefing up security at airports; and

(c) if so, to what extent acquisition have been cleared and completed and to what extent Navy and Air Force and Army are combining to meet threat posed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) was held in August, 2009 to consider various capital acquisition

proposals of the Services. Acquisition of items approved by the DAC is undertaken as per the provisions of Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP).

A joint strategy exists with civil aviation regarding sharing and monitoring of airspace round the clock for combating any threat/ suspected air intrusion threat thereof before it can manifest.

Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) is entrusted with the task of formulating a Long Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP) to meet the requirements of the three Services based on their threat perceptions and operational challenges.

Strengthening of Coastal Security System

622. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 453 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th July, 2009 and state:

(a) the details of appropriate steps taken or proposed to take to strengthen the coastal surveillance and security in the country;

(b) whether any stations or areas have been identified for installation of radars along the coastal line, with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Government has accorded top priority to coastal security and for this purpose an integrated approach has been put in place. The intelligence-sharing mechanism has been streamlined through the creation of Joint Operation Centres and multi agency coordination mechanism. The coastal surveillance and patrolling has been enhanced. Joint and operational exercises are taking place on regular basis between Navy, Coast Guard, Coastal Police and Customs in order to check the effectiveness of the new systems.

(b) and (c) Installation of radars at different places including Andhra Pradesh is part of coastal surveillance mechanism is an on-going process.

Crashes of MIG-21 planes

623. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to frequent mishaps, out of 450 single engine Mig-21 planes only 150 to 160 planes are left with Indian Air Force now;

(b) if so, the details of technical status of these planes;

(c) whether Government is taking any steps to improve the condition of these planes;

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.